Measures to reduce expenditure and increase earnings

1198. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any measures to reduce expenditure and increase earnings in the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to close the uneconomic branch lines on which railways are losing crores of rupees every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the constant endeavour of the Railways to reduce expenditure and increase earnings. Some of the specific measures being adopted for containing expenditure are listed below:—

1. Review of working of uneconomic branch lines in order to make them viable.
2. Closure of steam sheds and other sub-optimal activities, with plans for re-deployment of staff rendered surplus.
3. Economy in energy consumption—coal, diesel, electricity.
4. Curbs on fuel consumption of road vehicles.
5. Review of purchase of general purpose stores items.
6. Checks on local purchases and purchase of non-stock items, with particular reference to reasonableness of quantities and rates.
7. Curbs on expenditure on items like advertisement, entertainment etc.

In the matter of maximising the earnings and raising additional resources, the following areas have been identified for attention on priority:

1. Better marketing efforts.
2. Plugging of leakages in earnings.
3. Increasing revenue from railway land by commercial exploitation and removal/prevention of encroachments.
4. Stepping-up of commercial publicity; and
5. Realising the full potential for revenue from private catering units and stalls at railway stations.

(c) The policy is to consider closure of only those uneconomic branch lines where adequate means of transport exist and whose continuance is not required to meet the transport needs of the area. However, at present there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Policy regarding demolition of unauthorised Buildings

1199. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi do not have any clear cut policy on demolition of unauthorised commercial/residential buildings which have come up in a large number during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct MCD to adopt clear cut policy and demolish all such illegal constructions/encroachments held during the past few years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) There is no ambiguity in the policy; all unauthorised constructions, both residential and commercial, are actionable under the provisions of the D.M.C. Act, 1957 as